

PROVINCIAL UPDATE ON THE AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2011

Introduction

In May 2011, Premier Dexter committed to updating Nova Scotians every six months on the progress of implementing the Auditor General's recommendations.

This report provides a brief summary of the recommendations, responses and status of the recommendations from April 2009 to May 2011. A summary response from each department is found in *Appendix 1* at the end of this report. The summary response provides a breakdown of the recommendations by chapter, status and includes a brief summary on the status of each recommendation.

Also, Appendix 2 provides a summary of the status of all 2005 to 2008 Auditor General's recommendations.

Background

Year	Month	Chapters	Number of Recommendations
2011	May	6 - performance audits; 1 - follow-up on the status of the 2005 to 2008 recommendations	101
2010	November	3 - performance audits; 3 - financial reporting	82
2010	June	3 - performance audits; 1 - follow-up on the status of the 2007 recommendations	43
2010	February	3 - performance audits; 3 - financial reporting	59
2009	July	1 - special report on Pandemic Preparedness	33
2009	April	3 - performance audits; 1 - follow-up on the status of the 2006 recommendations	47

Qualifying Statement (Disclaimer)

The information in this report is based on the applicable department's reporting of the status of the recommendations assigned to them. The Auditor General performs follow up reviews two years after the release of a report; as such, the status updates in this report have not been reviewed and could result in some future discrepancies when reviewed by the Auditor General.

Timing

Information in this report is as at October 31, 2011, and is based on information in the Tracking Auditor General Recommendations (TAGR) System.

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Details

The table below outlines in more detail the reports, chapters, number of recommendations and status of the recommendations.

	Complete	Work in Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not Intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
Total Recommendations					
May 2011					
Chapter 2: Follow-up of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008	3	-	-	-	3
Chapter 3: Financial Assistance to Businesses through	3	15	-	-	18
Chapter 4: Colchester Regional Hospital Replacement	3	10	1	-	14
Chapter 5: Long Term Care – New and Replacement	-	7	-	-	7
Chapter 6: Office of the Fire Marshal	6	19	-	-	25
Chapter 7: Registry of Motor Vehicles	5	16	-	-	21
Chapter 8: Registry of Motor Vehicles Information and	5	8	-	-	13
November 2010					
Chapter 2: Rent Supplement Housing	-	9	-	-	9
Chapter 3: Services for Persons with Disabilities	1	28	-	-	29
Chapter 4: Registry Systems	13	11	-	-	24
Chapter 5: Government Financial Reporting	4	12	-	4	20
June 2010					
Chapter 2: Financial Assistance to Businesses Through NSBI and IEF	2	3	-	1	6
Chapter 3: Management of Contaminated Sites	5	10	1	1	17
Chapter 4: Mental Health Services	5	14	-	-	19
Chapter 5: Follow-up of 2007 Recommendations	1	-	-	-	1
February 2010					
Chapter 2: Electronic Health Records	2	6	-	-	8
Chapter 3: Contract Management of Public-Private	18	3	-	-	21
Chapter 4: Members' Constituency and Other	9	-	-	-	9
Chapter 5: Government Financial Reporting	13	6	-	2	21
July 2009					
Chapter 1: Pandemic Preparedness	25	8	-	-	33
April 2009					
Chapter 2: Government-wide: Audit Committees	8	4	-	2	14
Chapter 3: Government-wide: Information Technology	12	8	-	1	21
Chapter 4: Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and	7	2	-	2	11
Chapter 5: Follow-up of 2006 Audit Recommendations	1	-	-	-	1
Total	151	199	2	13	365
Percentage	41%	55%	1%	3%	100%

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Overall statistics:

2011 Recommendations: 100 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 25% of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

2010 Recommendations: 175 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 42% of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

2009 Recommendations: 75 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 71% of these recommendations are considered complete by departments.

- Accepted status refers to the following status categories: complete, work in progress, planning stage, and no progress to date but plan to action. Accepted status excludes: Action no longer required and Do not plan to implement this recommendation.

- Complete status refers to the following status categories: complete. Complete status excludes: work in progress, planning stage, and no progress to date but plan to action.

Comparison of Years:

For a comparison to prior years, the table (below) outlines the number of reports, recommendations and percentage of completed implementations.

Year	# of Reports	# of Special Reports	Total Recommendations	Recommendations Accepted ^{(2) & (3)}	Recommendations Accepted & Complete
2011 ⁽¹⁾	1	0	101	100	25 %
2010	2	1	184	175	42 %
2009	1	1	80	75	71 %

(1) One report released as at October 31, 2011

(2) Percentage of Recommendations accepted includes responses with "complete", "work in progress", "planning stage", and "no progress to date but plan to action",

(3) Statistics collected from the TAGR System as at October 31, 2011

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Allocation of Recommendations by Years to Departments/Offices:

	Complete	Work In Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not Intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
Allocation of 2011 Recommendations					
Economic and Rural Development and Tourism	3	15	-	-	18
Health and Wellness	3	15	1	-	19
Labour and Advanced Education	6	19	-	-	25
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	9	24	-	-	33
Public Service Offices					
Chief Information Office	1	-	-	-	1
Treasury Board Office	3	2	-	-	5
Total by Status	25	75	1	-	101
Percentages	25%	74%	1%	0%	100%
Allocation of 2010 Recommendations					
Community Services	1	37	-	-	38
Economic and Rural Development and Tourism	1	3	-	1	5
Education	18	3	-	-	21
Environment	5	10	1	1	17
Finance	16	17	-	6	39
Health and Wellness	7	21	-	-	28
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	12	9	-	-	21
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	2	-	-	-	2
Public Service Offices					
Chief Information Office	1	2	-	-	3
Executive Council Office	1	-	-	-	1
Legislative Services	9	-	-	-	9
Total by Status	73	102	1	8	184
Percentages	40%	55%	1%	4%	100%
Allocation of 2009 Recommendations					
Education	-	-	-	2	2
Finance	1	-	-	-	1
Health and Wellness	23	8	-	-	31
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	4	-	-	2	6
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	3	2	-	-	5
Public Service Offices					
Chief Information Office	12	8	-	1	21
Executive Council Office	2	-	-	-	2
Treasury Board Office	8	2	-	-	10
Emergency Management Office	-	2	-	-	2
Total by Status	53	22	-	5	80
Percentages	66%	28%	0%	6%	100%

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Appendix 1: For more detail on the 2009 to 2011 recommendations please visit the following departments/offices' websites:

Departments:

Community Services

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/departement/Publications.html>

Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/publications/>

Education

http://www.ednet.ns.ca/business_plans.shtml

Environment

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/resources/publications.asp>

Finance

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/en/home/publications/accountabilityreport.aspx>

Health and Wellness

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/DHW/corporate-reports.asp>

Justice

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/publications/>

Labour and Advanced Education

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/lae/pubs/docs/TAGRUpdateLAE.pdf>

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/business-plan.asp>

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/businessplan.asp>

Offices:

Chief Information Office

<http://gov.ns.ca/cio/publications/>

Executive Council Office

http://www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/OfficePublications.htm

Legislative Services

<http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/people/offices/speakers-administrative-office/>

Treasury Board Office

http://www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/OfficePublications.htm

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Appendix 2: 2005 to 2008 Recommendations

Overall statistics:

2008 Recommendations: 130 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 132 responses to the recommendations; 62 % of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

2007 Recommendations: 58 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 60 responses to the recommendations; 54 % of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

2006 Recommendations: 107 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 113 responses to the recommendations; 79 % of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

2005 Recommendations: 97 recommendations made by the Auditor General have been accepted; 124 responses to the recommendations; 76 % of these recommendations are considered complete by departments

- *Accepted status refers to the following status categories: complete, work in progress, planning stage, and no progress to date but plan to action. Excludes: Action no longer required and Do not plan to implement this recommendation.*

- *Complete status refers to the following status categories: complete. Complete status excludes: work in progress, planning stage, and no progress to date but plan to action.*

Comparison of Years:

For a comparison to prior years, the table (below) outlines the number of reports, recommendations and percentage of completed implementations.

Year	# of Reports	# of Special Reports	Total Responses to the Recommendations ⁽¹⁾	Recommendations Accepted ^{(2) & (3)}	Recommendations Accepted & Complete
2008	2	2	132	123	62 %
2007	1	0	60	59	54 %
2006	2	0	113	102	79 %
2005	2	0	124	115	76 %

(1) Total Recommendations are based on the number of assigned recommendations in the TAGR system. In some cases, one recommendation would be assigned to multiple departments and therefore would have multiple responses.

(2) Percentage of Recommendations accepted includes responses with "complete", "work in progress", "planning stage", and "no progress to date but plan to action",

(3) Statistics collected from the TAGR System as at October 31, 2011

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Appendix 2: 2005 to 2008 Recommendations (continued)

	Complete	Work In Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
Allocation of Recommendations					
February 2008					
Chief Information Office	-	5	-	-	5
Education	16	2	-	-	18
Environment	5	2	-	-	7
Finance	4	-	-	-	4
Health Promotion and Protection	11	8	-	-	19
Treasury Board Office	1	-	-	1	2
Subtotal	37	17	0	1	55
Percentages	67%	31%	0%	2%	100%
June 2008					
Office of Immigration	-	-	1	-	1
Subtotal	0	0	1	0	1
Percentages	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
October 2008					
Office of Immigration	-	1	-	-	1
Subtotal	0	1	0	0	1
Percentages	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
November 2008					
Community Services	-	-	-	1	1
Education	4	-	-	-	4
Finance	20	13	-	3	36
Health and Wellness	13	14	1	-	28
Labour and Advanced Education	2	2	-	1	5
Treasury Board Office	-	-	-	1	1
Subtotal	39	29	1	6	75
Percentages	52%	39%	1%	8%	100%
Total	76	47	2	7	132
Percentages	58%	36%	2%	5%	100%

	Complete	Work In Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
Allocation of Recommendations					
June 2007					
Community Services	4	4	-	-	8
Finance	-	-	-	1	1
Health and Wellness	14	18	-	-	32
Justice	13	5	-	-	18
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	1	-	-	-	1
Total	32	27	0	1	60
Percentages	53%	45%	0%	2%	100%

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Appendix 2: 2005 to 2008 Recommendations (continued)

	Complete	Work In Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
Allocation of Recommendations					
June 2006					
Community Services	8	1	-	1	10
Economic and Rural Development and Tourism	3	-	-	-	3
Education	25	6	2	2	35
Finance	3	1	-	2	6
Health and Wellness	11	7	1	1	20
Natural Resources	7	3	-	-	10
Subtotal	57	18	3	6	84
Percentages	68%	21%	4%	7%	100%
December 2006					
Finance	3	-	-	-	3
Health and Wellness	10	2	1	-	13
Justice	5	1	-	-	6
Public Service Commission	1	-	-	-	1
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	5	-	-	-	5
Treasury Board Office	-	-	-	1	1
Subtotal	24	3	1	1	29
Percentages	83%	10%	3%	3%	100%
Total	81	21	4	7	113
Percentages	72%	19%	4%	6%	100%

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Appendix 2: 2005 to 2008 Recommendations (continued)

Allocation of Recommendations	Complete	Work in Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not Intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
June 2005					
Chief Information Office	1	-	-	-	1
Economic and Rural Development and Tourism	1	-	-	-	1
Education	7	-	-	1	8
Emergency Management Office	-	1	-	-	1
Finance	12	1	1	1	15
Health and Wellness	-	1	-	-	1
Natural Resources	15	1	-	-	16
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	6	6	-	-	12
Subtotal	42	10	1	2	55
Percentages	76%	18%	2%	4%	100%
December 2005					
Community Services	7	2	-	-	9
Economic and Rural Development and Tourism	1	3	-	-	4
Education	4	4	-	1	9
Finance	8	4	-	2	14
Health Promotion and Protection	9	-	-	-	9
Intergovernmental Affairs	5	-	-	-	5
Justice	5	-	3	-	8
Public Service Commission	1	-	-	-	1
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	1	-	-	-	1
Tourism, Culture and Heritage	-	5	-	-	5
Treasury Board Office	4	-	-	-	4
Subtotal	45	18	3	3	69
Percentages	65%	26%	4%	4%	100%
Total	87	28	4	5	124
Percentages	70%	23%	3%	4%	100%